

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

(Currently Amended) 1. An information rearrangement method for rearranging information obtained from information sources connected via a network comprising: an information collection step of collecting information from a predetermined number of registered sites; an information element extraction step of extracting, from among said collected information, information elements that include the same facts that are referred to at multiple sites, said information element extraction step comprising selecting, from keywords of information elements included in one set, a keyword having an appearance rate that is equal to or greater than a threshold value, said keywords comprising words that are ~~keywords~~ searchable, rankable, extractable, representations of information elements for determining the same facts included in the information elements, and chosen from the group consisting of anchors, links, text, nouns, predetermined proper nouns; and predetermined verbs; and a display step of displaying the contents of said extracted information elements while changing the display state of said contents in accordance with the number of sites whereat said facts are referred to; said step of displaying comprising extracting a set of important information elements on a sentence level from a group composed of a predetermined number of sites, and folding the display for the same sets of important information elements.

(Original) 2. The information rearrangement method according to claim 1, wherein, at said information element extraction step, said information elements that convey the same facts are extracted together with a set of keywords that represent said information elements.

(Canceled) 3.

(Currently Amended) 4. An information rearrangement method for rearranging information obtained from information sources connected via a network comprising: an information collection step of collecting information from a predetermined number of registered sites; an information element extraction step of extracting, from among said collected information,

information elements that include the same facts that are referred to at multiple sites, said information element extraction step comprising selecting, from keywords of information elements included in one set, a keyword having an appearance rate that is equal to or greater than a threshold value, said keywords comprising words that are keywords searchable, rankable, extractable, representations of information elements for determining the same facts included in the information elements, and chosen from the group consisting of anchors, links, text, nouns, predetermined proper nouns; and predetermined verbs; and a topic keyword extraction step of extracting a topic keyword that represents the entire set of information elements to be extracted; said topic keyword extraction step comprising a representative keyword extraction step, a set representative keyword extraction step, and a topic keyword collection step, and a display step of displaying the contents of said extracted information elements, while displaying said extracted topic keyword at a position different from the contents concerning said information elements.

(Original) 5. The information rearrangement method according to claim 4, wherein, at said display step, when specific items are designated in said displayed topic keyword including multiple items, the contents concerning information elements that belong to a set of said specific items are displayed, and the contents concerning information elements that belong to a set of items that are not pertinent to said specific items are masked.

(Previously Amended) 6. An information rearrangement method for rearranging information obtained from information sources connected via a network comprising: an information collection step of periodically crawling a group of registered sites and collecting information; an information element extraction step of extracting, from among a set of information elements at individual sites in said group, information elements that convey the same facts; and an importance level calculation step of providing an importance level in accordance with the number of sites that are referred to; said information element extraction step comprising selecting, from keywords of information elements included in one set, a keyword having an appearance rate that is equal to or greater than a threshold value, said keywords comprising words for determining the same facts included in the information

elements, and chosen from the group consisting of anchors, links, text, nouns, predetermined proper nouns; and predetermined verbs.

(Original) 7. The information rearrangement method according to claim 6, wherein, at said information element extraction step, from new keywords that are revised by periodical crawling, said information elements that include the same facts are extracted while taking into account a matching level relative to a proper noun that can be the subject of said facts.

(Previously Amended) 8. The information rearrangement method according to claim 6, wherein important information elements on a sentence level, for which an importance level is provided at said importance level calculation step, are rearranged in the descending order of their importance levels and are presented visually.

(Currently Amended) 9. An information rearrangement method comprising the steps of: extracting information elements from multiple sites; said step of extracting information elements comprising selecting, from keywords of information elements included in one set, a keyword having an appearance rate that is equal to or greater than a threshold value, said keywords comprising words that are ~~keywords~~ searchable, rankable, extractable, representations of information elements for determining the same facts included in the information elements, and chosen from the group consisting of anchors, links, text, nouns, predetermined proper nouns; and predetermined verbs, and determining whether, of said information elements extracted from said multiple sites, there are relevant information elements that convey the same facts as sentence-level information elements that constitute an arbitrary web page; and when said relevant information elements that include the same facts as said sentence-level information elements are present in said information elements obtained from said multiple sites, adding remark information to said sentence-level information elements to provide information concerning said arbitrary web page.

(Original) 10. The information rearrangement method according to claim 9, wherein said web page with said added remark information is displayed, and said relevant information elements are displayed by designating said remark information.

11 – 12. (Cancelled)

(Currently Amended) 13. An information processing apparatus for rearranging information obtained from information sources connected via a network comprising: information collection means for collecting information from a predetermined number of registered sites; information element extraction means for extracting, from among said collected information, information elements that include the same facts that are referred to at multiple sites; and result display means for displaying the contents of said extracted information elements while changing the display state of said contents in accordance with the number of sites whereat said facts are referred to; the information element extraction means comprising a keyword extraction means for extracting keywords based on keywords for metadata stored in a metadata database; a keyword importance level calculation means for calculating a keyword importance; a sentence-level information element extraction means for calculating a set of sentence-level information elements, a topic keyword extraction means for extracting from the entire set of information elements extracted by the sentence-level information elements extraction means, and a word-level information element extraction means, for extracting information elements in which a combination of keywords that are obtained by the keyword importance level calculation means appear.

(Original) 14. The information processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said result display means rearranges said information elements in the descending order of the numbers of sites that are referred to, and displays the contents of said information elements.

(Original) 15. The information processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said result display means displays sets of sentence-level important information elements that are extracted from a group of a predetermined number of sites, and folds and hides the same important information element sets.

(Currently Amended) 16. An information processing apparatus for rearranging information obtained from information sources connected via a network comprising: information

collection means for collecting information from a predetermined number of registered sites; information element extraction means for extracting, from among said collected information, information elements that include the same facts that are referred to at multiple sites, the information element extraction means comprising a keyword extraction means for extracting keywords based on keywords for metadata stored in a metadata database; a keyword importance level calculation means for calculating a keyword importance; a sentence-level information element extraction means for calculating a set of sentence-level information elements, a topic keyword extraction means for extracting from the entire set of information elements extracted by the sentence-level information elements extraction means, and a word-level information element extraction means, for extracting information elements in which a combination of keywords that are obtained by the keyword importance level calculation means appear, topic keyword extraction means for extracting a topic keyword that represents the entire set of information elements to be extracted, said topic keyword extraction means comprising a representative keyword extraction means, a set representative keyword extraction means, and a topic keyword collection means, whereby results extracted by sentence-level important information element extraction means, topic keyword extraction means, and word-level important information element extraction means are stored in an important information element; and display means for displaying the contents of said extracted information elements, while displaying said extracted topic keyword at a position different from the contents concerning said information elements.

(Original) 17. The information processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein, when specific items are designated in said displayed topic keyword including multiple items, said display means displays the contents concerning information elements that belong to a set of said specific items, and masks the contents concerning information elements that belong to a set of items that are not pertinent to said specific items.

(Currently Amended) 18. An information processing apparatus for rearranging information obtained from information sources connected via a network comprising: information collection means for periodically crawling a group of registered sites and collecting information; information element extraction means for extracting, from among a set of

information elements at the individual sites in said group, information elements that convey the same facts the information element extraction means comprising a keyword extraction means for extracting keywords based on keywords for metadata stored in a metadata database; a keyword importance level calculation means for calculating a keyword importance; a sentence-level information element extraction means for calculating a set of sentence-level information elements, a topic keyword extraction means for extracting from the entire set of information elements extracted by the sentence-level information elements extraction means, and a word-level information element extraction means, for extracting information elements in which a combination of keywords that are obtained by the keyword importance level calculation means appear; and importance level calculation means for providing an importance level in accordance with the number of sites that are referred to.

(Original) 19. The information processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said information element extraction means extracts, from new keywords that are revised by periodical crawling said information elements that include the same facts, while taking into account a matching level relative to a proper noun that can be the subject of said facts.

(Previously Amended) 20. An information processing apparatus according to claim 18 comprising: means for extracting information elements from multiple sites; means for determining whether, of said information elements extracted from said multiple sites, there are relevant information elements that convey the same facts as sentence-level information elements that constitute an arbitrary web page; and means for, when said relevant information elements that include the same facts as said sentence-level information elements are present in said information elements obtained from said multiple sites, adding remark information to said sentence-level information elements to provide information concerning said arbitrary web page.

(Previously Amended) 21. The information processing apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising: means for displaying said web page with said added remark information; and means for displaying said relevant information elements by designating said remark information.

(Cancelled) 22.-23

(Currently Amended) 24. A storage medium on which a computer-readable program is stored, which permits a computer to perform: a process for collecting information from a predetermined number of registered sites; a process for extracting, from among said collected information, information elements that include the same facts that are referred to at multiple sites said information element extraction process comprising selecting, from keywords of information elements included in one set, a keyword having an appearance rate that is equal to or greater than a threshold value, said keywords comprising words that are effective searchable, rankable, extractable, representations of information elements for determining the same facts included in the information elements, and chosen from the group consisting of anchors, links, text, nouns, predetermined proper nouns; and predetermined verbs; and a process for displaying the contents of said extracted information elements while changing the display state of said contents in accordance with the number of sites whereat said facts are referred to.

(Currently Amended) 25. A storage medium on which a computer-readable program is stored, which permits a computer to perform: a process for collecting information from a predetermined number of registered sites; a process for extracting, from among said collected information, information elements that include the same facts that are referred to at multiple sites, said information element extraction processing step comprising selecting, from keywords of information elements included in one set, a keyword having an appearance rate that is equal to or greater than a threshold value, said keywords comprising words that are keywords searchable, rankable, extractable, representations of information elements for determining the same facts included in the information elements, and chosen from the group consisting of anchors, links, text, nouns, predetermined proper nouns; and predetermined verbs;[[[;]]] a process for extracting a topic keyword that represents the entire set of information elements to be extracted; and a process for displaying the contents of said extracted information elements, while displaying said extracted topic keyword at a position different from the contents concerning said information elements.

(Currently Amended) 26. A storage medium on which a computer-readable program is stored, which permits a computer to perform: a process for periodically crawling a group of registered sites and collecting information; a process for extracting, from among a set of information elements at the individual sites in said group, information elements that convey the same facts said information element extraction process comprising selecting, from keywords of information elements included in one set, a keyword having an appearance rate that is equal to or greater than a threshold value, said keywords comprising words that are keywords searchable, rankable, extractable, representations of information elements for determining the same facts included in the information elements, and chosen from the group consisting of anchors, links, text, nouns, predetermined proper nouns; and predetermined verbs;[[[;]]] and a process for providing an importance level in accordance with the number of sites that are referred to.

(Cancelled) 27 - 28.